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 **ENTERED**



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DEPUTY SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

February 25, 2003

Dr. Inés Triay, Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Dr. Steven Warren, President  
Washington TRU Solutions LLC  
P.O. Box 2078  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-5608

**RE: NMED APPROVAL OF THE IDAHO NATIONAL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
LABORATORY FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-02-27  
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT  
EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088**

Dear Dr. Triay and Dr. Warren:

On September 25, 2002, NMED received the Final Audit Report of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (**INEEL**) Audit Number A-02-27 (**Audit Report**), from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (**CBFO**). CBFO and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (**the Permittees**) were required to submit this Audit Report under the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (**WIPP**) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit as specified in Permit Condition II.C.2.c. The intended scope of this annual recertification audit was to ensure the continued adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the following INEEL waste characterization processes relative to the requirements of the WIPP Permit: acceptable knowledge (**AK**), headspace gas sampling and analysis, visual examination, and real-time radiography of Summary Category Group S5000 debris and S3000 organic and inorganic homogeneous solid contact-handled transuranic waste, along with overpacking activities associated with standard waste boxes. The audit scope explicitly excluded solid sampling and analysis activities since they were not addressed in the current revision of the INEEL Quality Assurance Project Plan (**QAPjP**). The Audit Report consisted of the following items:

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- A narrative report
- Completed copies of relevant Permit Attachment B6 checklists
- Final INEEL standard operating procedures (electronic and hardcopy)
- Corrective action reports and items corrected during the audit
- Objective evidence examined during the audit
  - General information
  - Acceptable knowledge
  - Headspace gas
  - Real time radiography
  - Visual examination

NMED representatives observed the INEEL audit on August 5 – 9, 2002. NMED has examined the Audit Report for evidence of compliance with the requirements of Permit Conditions II.C.2 (Audit and Surveillance Program) and II.C.1 (Waste Analysis Plan [WAP]). The Audit Report indicates there was one WAP-related condition adverse to quality requiring the issuance of a CBFO corrective action report regarding several AK summaries not containing information relating to the solidified waste residual liquid de-watering issue that was subsequently corrected prior to submittal of the Audit Report; two deficiencies requiring only remedial actions that were corrected during the audit; one observation identifying a condition that, if not controlled, could result in a condition adverse to quality; and three recommendations identifying opportunities for improvement.

The Audit Report stated that solid sampling and analysis activities were only evaluated to the extent sufficient to verify that these activities had not been performed for the 3100 m<sup>3</sup> project during the period from the last certification audit (Audit A-01-14 conducted in August 2001) through July 2002, since these activities were not addressed in the current revision of INEEL's QAPjP. The evaluation determined that INEEL had not performed any sampling or analysis activities related to total metals, total volatile organic compounds, total semi-volatile organic compounds, or polychlorinated biphenyls since the previous recertification audit, A-01-14. As a result of this evaluation, the Audit Report concluded, "INEEL will not be recertified for sampling or analysis of S3000 waste streams."

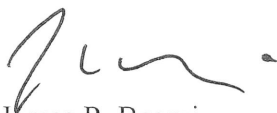
NMED notes that Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC (**BBWI**) served as the management and operating contractor for the INEEL "3100 m<sup>3</sup> project" and was the entity subject to audit for most of the waste characterization activities described in the Audit Report. Between the time of the audit and the issuance of this letter, BBWI completed the 3100 m<sup>3</sup> project and is no longer characterizing waste on behalf of INEEL. NMED has determined that future implementation at INEEL of any approved procedures that were previously implemented on behalf of INEEL by BBWI will require a new audit to ensure effective implementation by the replacement contractor.

NMED concludes that this Audit Report demonstrates that INEEL has adequately implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for INEEL Audit A-02-27 for the use of acceptable knowledge, headspace gas sampling and analysis, visual examination, and real-time radiography for Summary

Category Group S5000 debris and S3000 organic and inorganic homogeneous solid contact-handled transuranic waste along with overpacking activities associated with standard waste boxes, and amends the previous Audit Report approval for Audit A-01-14 issued by NMED on August 8, 2002 to include all waste forms and processes evaluated by this recertification audit. Excluded from this approval are all solid sampling and analysis activities, and future implementation by a different contractor of any procedures previously implemented by BBWI.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (505) 428-2512.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:soz

cc: Steve Zappe, NMED HWB  
Tracy Hughes, NMED OGC  
C. Steven Allred, ID DEQ  
Kathleen Trever, INEEL Oversight  
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